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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/557,912	04/21/2000	Ken-ichi Ohta	35.G2573	9393

5514 7590 02/08/2005

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EXAMINER

KASSA, YOSEF

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2625

DATE MAILED: 02/08/2005

15

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Supplemental
Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/557,912

Applicant(s)

OHTA, KEN-ICHI

Examiner

YOSEF KASSA

Art Unit

2625

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 05 December 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-21 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5, 8-14 and 18-21 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) 6, 7 and 15-17 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 21 April 2000 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____
- 4) ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). 14
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other:

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments/amendment, see (page 7-10) filed on December 05, 2003, with respect to the rejection of claims 1-21 under Sonoda et al (U.S. Patent 6,014,453), and in view of Kuboki et al (U.S. Patent 5,790,165), have been fully considered and are persuasive. Therefore, the rejection has been withdrawn. However, upon further consideration, a new ground(s) of rejection is made on claims 1-21 under Sonoda et al (U.S. Patent 6,014,453), and further in view of Sato (U.S. Patent 5,638,496).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-5, 8-14 and 18-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sonoda et al (6,014,453), and further in view of Sato (U.S. Patent 5,638,496).

Regard to claims 1, Sonoda discloses reading means for reading color image data stored in image storage (see Fig. 7, the CPU item 30, reading out image data stored in memory 20), means provided in color-image processing apparatus (see Fig. 7, item 1, RGB or color image data processing device); and the color image data is read

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from image storage means at a predetermined time which is independent of a read instruction given by a user to read the color image data stored in the image storage means (see col. 14, lines 8-27, previously established pattern stored in memories 36a and 37a, which reads on predetermined time, and this process is done without a user command, which reads on independent of a read instruction given by a user).

Sonoda did not explicitly call for determining the similarity between the color image data and a pattern specific image. In the same field of endeavor, However, Sato discloses comparing the transform color image data with reference color data stored in storage (see col. 1, lines 51-67). At the time of the invention was made, it would have been obvious to a person an ordinary skill in the art to incorporate the teaching of Sato's color image comparing process into Sonoda's system. The motivation doing so is to provide a color image comparing process to identify input image read by reading means.

Regard to claims 2, Sonoda discloses color-image processing apparatus comprises a computer, and wherein the image storage means comprises a hard disk (see col. 5, lines 45-47).

Regard to claims 3, Sonoda discloses the color image data is stored in image storage means as a file (see col. 8, lines 59-64).

Regard to claims 4, Sonoda discloses alteration means for performing alteration for of the color-image data when said determination means determines that the color image data coincides with the pattern (see col. 5, lines 43-48).

Regard to claims 5, Sonoda discloses pattern the image storage means, and determination means are controlled by an operating system on a computer, and wherein the operating system periodically controls said determination means to perform determination on the color image data stored in the image storage means (see col. 8, lines 57-65).

Regard to claims 7, Sonoda discloses determination means does not determine the similarity with respect to the color image data having determination completed flag information (see col. 8, lines 33-41).

Regard to claims 8, Sonoda discloses determination means determines the similarity when application software executed on a computer reads the color image data from said storage the image means (see col. 8, lines 45-48).

Regard to claims 9, Sonoda discloses determination means performs a determination when an operation input from an operator is not provided for a predetermined period (see col. 8, lines 33-39).

Regard to claims 10, Sonoda discloses determination means performs a determination when a CPU (central processing unit) of color-image processing apparatus does not execute application software (see col. 17, lines 36-48).

Regard to claims 11, Sonoda discloses determination means in, performs a determination when color-image processing apparatus is turned on (see col. 8, lines 42-50).

Regard to claims 12, Sonoda discloses means performs a determination when copying the color image data from an external storage device to the image storage means (see col. 8, lines 54-65).

Claims 13 and 14 are similarly analyzed as claim 12.

Regard to claims 15, Sonoda discloses determination means performs a determination by obtaining bit-map data other than data buried within the image file in a format of a tag (see col. 9, lines 44-48).

Claims 18 and 20 are similarly analyzed as claim 1

Claims 19 and 21 are similarly analyzed as claim 2.

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 6, 7 and 15- 17 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Other Prior Art Cited

4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

US Patent No. (5515451) to Tsuji et al disclose image processing system for selectively reproducing documents.

US Patent No. (5502575) to Kai et al disclose imaging apparatus having a counterfeiting prevention function.

US Patent No. (5475468) to Natsudaira discloses method and copying for preventing illegal copying.

US Patent No. (6335794) to Herley et al disclose detection and deterrence of counterfeiting of two sided documents.

US Patent No. (5678155) to Niyaza disclose anti counterfeiting device for use in an image processing apparatus.

Conclusion

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to YOSEF KASSA whose telephone number is (703) 306-5918. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday from 8:00 AM to 6:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, BHAVESH MEHTA can be reached on (703) 308-5246. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306 for regular communication and (703) 872-9306 for after Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the customer service office whose telephone number is (703) 306-5631. The group receptionist number for TC 2600 is (703) 305-4700.

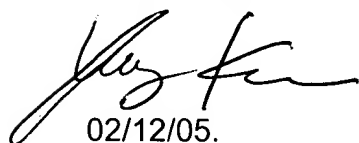
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Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

PATENT EXAMINER

Yosef Kassa



02/12/05.